THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The rate of gross capital formation in the economy is influenced by the rate of saving in the household public and private sectors. As per the latest available figures, the household sector registered an improvement in gross capital formation from 8.2% of Gross Domestic Product in 1998-99 to 9.2% in 1999-2000. Thus there was increase in the rate of capital formation in the household sector despite reduction in the interest rates on small savings on January 1, 1999.

(c) Interest rates have been reduced as the real rates were considered high and were preventing downward movement of other interest rates in the economy. Suitable measures are taken from time to time for continued and enhanced mobilisation of resources. In addition to attractive returns and tax concessions, small savings schemes offer implicit sovereign guarantee, easy liquidity and accessibility.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Declaration of Tirumala as "No Fly Zone"

136. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tirumala has been declared as "No Fly Zone" as requested by the Andhra Pradesh Government for security reasons;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTR OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration.

Airports in NER

137. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the buildings and air-strips of Airports in the NER, including Lilabari Airprot, North Lakhimpur, are operational;

(b) if so, the steps taken for air connectivity with the rest of the country and abroad;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and expected time by which the required infrastructure will be in place; and

(d) the details of the ongoing infrastructure projects in each of the airports in the NER indicating amount sanctioned, amount utilized, target works, target achieved and time frame for completion of each project?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a)Airports at Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Silchar, Jorhat, Tezpur, Dimapur, Imphal, Agartala, Shilong, Lengpui and Lilabari are operational in the North East Region.

(b) Airlines provide air services to specific places including the North East Region depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability, subject to compliance of Route Dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) At Agartala, Rs. 6126.75 lacs was sanctioned for expansion & modification of terminal building, extension and strengthening of apron, widening of link taxi track and extenesion of runway and associated works out of which Rs.2168.57 lacs have been utilised. The work is to be completed by March, 2002.

— At Dimapur, Rs.1200 lacs was sanctioned for re-surfacing of runway out of which Rs.589.84 lacs has been utilised. The work is to be completed by September, 2002.

— At Lilabari, Rs. 1447 lacs was sanctioned for construction of new terminal building complex out of which Rs. 1350 lacs has been utilised. Work is to be completed by December, 2001.

— At Imphal work was awarded in June, 2001 for strengthening of runway and extension of apron at a sanctioned amount of Rs. 2094.36 lacs and is to be completed by 2003.

— At Silchar, work was awarded in June, 2001 for strengthening of apron and taxi way at a sanctioned amount of Rs. 240.23 lacs and is to be completed by December, 2002.

— At Dibrugarh, an amount of Rs. 2458 lacs was sanctioned for construction of new terminal building complex and allied works but work could not be taken up due to non-handling over of land by State Government.